Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover over a gutter ~~where the gutter has a rear wall, a bottom and a front wall~~, said bracket comprising:

    a) a junction for at least three struts;

    b) a lifting strut having a distal end that supports a frontal edge of the gutter cover, and having a proximal end that is integral to the junction;

    c) a stabilizing strut having a distal hooked end that can interlock with a folded edge of a frontal rim of the gutter and having a medial end that is integral to the junction; ~~and~~

    d) at least one bracing strut having a distal lower end and an upper end that is integral with the junction, wherein the at least one bracing strut is angled so that the distal lower end will contact ~~the~~ a bottom of the gutter or ~~the~~ a front wall of the gutter or a combination thereof~~, and the upper end will provide support to the lifting strut through the junction~~; and

    wherein the medial end of the stabilizing strut positions the junction towards the frontal rim and middle of the gutter.

2. (previously presented) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bracing strut is angled so that the lower end of the bracing strut rests on the bottom adjacent to the front wall of the gutter.

3. (currently amended) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bracing strut is straight so that the lower end of the bracing strut rests on the bottom adjacent to ~~the~~ a rear wall of the gutter.

4. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bracing strut is curvilinear so that the bracing strut substantially follows the contours of the front wall of the gutter.

5. (original) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 1, wherein said bracket further comprises at least one connecting element, where the at least one connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

6. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bracing strut is comprised of a curvilinear brace and an angled brace.

7. (original) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 6, wherein said bracket further comprises at least one connecting element, where the at least one connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

8. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the distal end of the lifting strut has a curvature as the hooked frontal curved

edge of the cover, thereby creating a partially interlocking attachment to the frontal curved edge of the cover.

9. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 8, wherein the at least one bracing strut is comprised of a curvilinear brace and an angled brace.

10. (original) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 8, wherein said bracket further comprises at least one connecting element, where the at least one connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

11. (original) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 9, wherein said bracket further comprises at least one connecting element, where the at least one connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

12. (original) A bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 8, wherein said bracket further comprises at least one connecting element, where the at least one connecting element spans from the stabilizing strut to the lifting strut.

13. (currently amended) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 1, wherein the bracket <u>has a structure that lends itself to being</u> ~~is~~ formed by continuous extrusion, and cutting the bracket to the desired width.

14. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 13, wherein the bracket has a composition that lends itself to extrusion, has good outside aging and performance properties, wherein the composition is selected from plastics, glasses, ceramics, metals, and composites.

15. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 14, wherein the metals are selected from the group consisting of: aluminum, aluminum alloys, weather resistant grades of iron alloys, copper, and weather resistant grades of copper alloys.

16. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 14, wherein the plastics are selected from the group consisting of: PVC, certain grades of polypropylenes, polyethylenes, phenolic resins, polyurethane, polyamides, chlorinated polyethylene, polychloroprene, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyvinylidene chloride, polycarbonates, polyvinylketals, polyvinylaldehydes, polyesters, blends of polyester, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, compounded natural rubber(s), synthetic rubber(s), and blends of rubber.

17. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 16, wherein the composites are formed from plastics listed in claim 16 and inorganic materials selected from the following group consisting of: cellulosic fibers, glass beads, glass fibers, titanium oxide, magnesium oxide, calcium carbonate, inorganic

sulfates, talcs, polyester fibers, silicates, and powdered carbons.

18. (original) The bracket for mounting a gutter cover to a gutter according to claim 14, wherein the composition can also contain processing aids, waxes, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, antimicrobial agents, and other weathering agents.

19. (currently amended) A method for installing a gutter cover over new or a preexisting gutter, where the gutter has a rear wall, a bottom and a front wall, on a roof using a bracket comprised of: a junction for at least three struts; a lifting strut having a distal end that supports a frontal edge of the gutter cover, and having a proximal end that is integral to the junction; a stabilizing strut having a distal hooked end that can interlock with a folded edge of a frontal rim of the gutter and having a medial end that is integral to the junction; and at least one bracing strut having a distal lower end and an upper end that is integral with the junction, wherein the at least one bracing strut is angled so that the distal lower end will contact the bottom of the gutter or the front wall of the gutter or a combination thereof, and the upper end will provide support to the lifting strut through the junction, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

positioning brackets along the trough at intervals sufficient to provide support to the cover, by interlocking the hooked end of the stabilizing strut into the frontal rim of the gutter, thereby stabilizing the junction towards the frontal rim and middle of the gutter, and the distal lower end of the bracing strut contacts the bottom of the gutter or the front wall of the gutter or a combination thereof;

aligning the cover over the gutter, wherein a longitudinal rear edge of the cover is inserted under a course of shingles or against the fascia plank of the roof;

pushing the cover against the roof until the leading hooked frontal edge of the gutter cover is contacting the distal end of the lifting strut of the bracket; and

securing the cover to the roof with a fastening means.